



Community Advisory Group Meeting

November 9, 2023



Closed Captions in English and Spanish

English closed captions are available within Zoom and YouTube.

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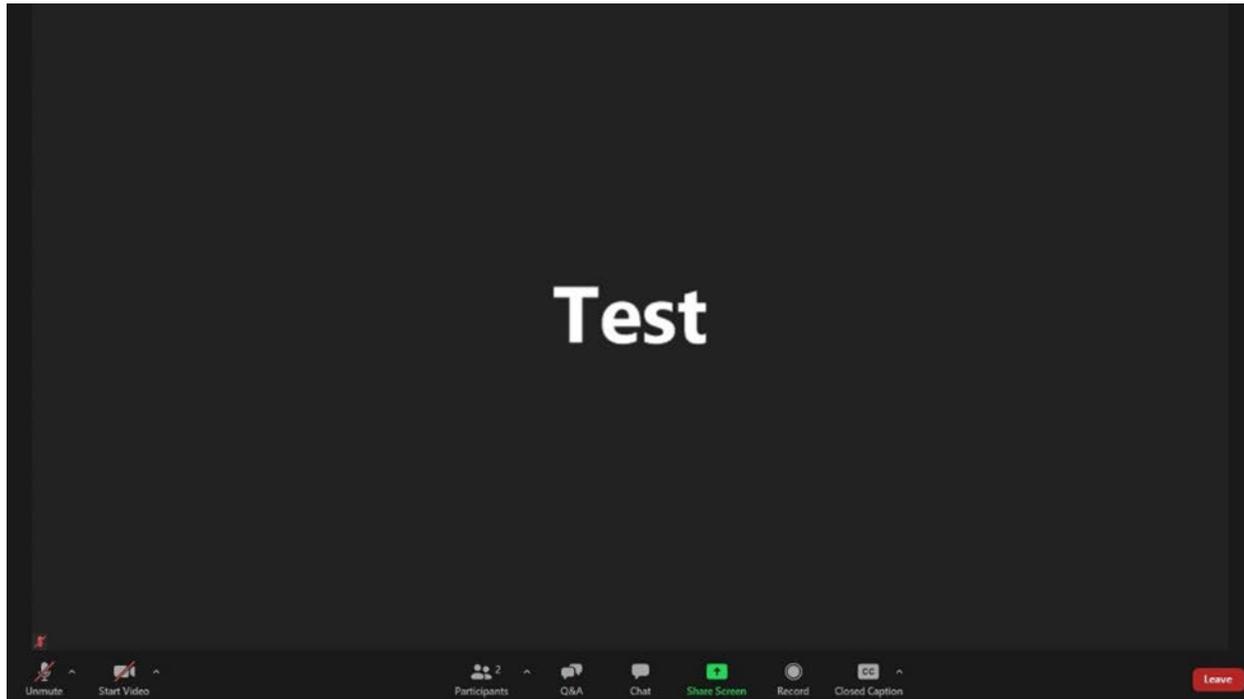
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Los subtítulos en Inglés están disponibles en Zoom y YouTube.

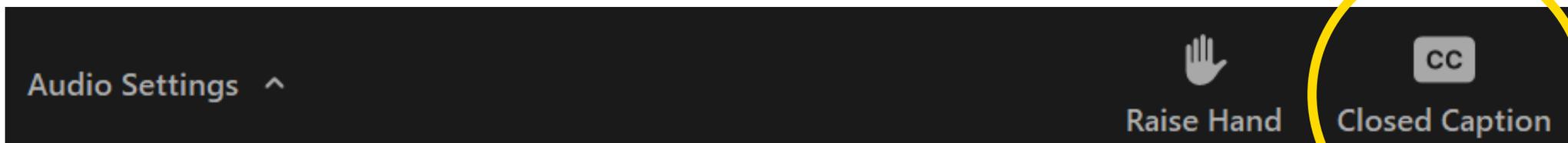
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How to access closed captions



1. At the bottom middle of your screen, you should see a menu of options. If you can't see the menu, hover your mouse over the bottom middle of the screen.
2. Click on the “CC” icon and a separate window with captions will appear.



Meeting Participation Tips

- ▶ Thank you for joining us today!
- ▶ Please join audio by either phone or computer, not both. We encourage panelists to turn on your video.
- ▶ Please keep your audio on mute when not speaking.
- ▶ If you experience technical difficulties, please contact program staff at: (503) 389-5675

ASL Interpretation

- ▶ In the effort to continue to center equity there is an ASL interpreter in addition to closed captioning.
- ▶ To make sure the interpreter is always visible please right click their video and select spotlight video.
- ▶ For those watching on YouTube, when we screenshare, you will be able to see the slideshow, closed captioning and the ASL interpreter. You will still be able to hear different people speaking but may not see them.

Public Input Instructions

- ▶ There will be an opportunity to provide brief public input later in the meeting today (around 5:45PM).
- ▶ Verbal public comment will be welcome in the Zoom Webinar during the designated time, with the option to turn on your web camera.
 - Please use the link located in the meeting description on the YouTube meeting page or on the IBR CAG meeting webpage.
 - Commenters will not be allowed to share their screens and will be removed from the room once the public comment period concludes.
- ▶ **To comment by phone:**
 - Dial: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968
 - Enter meeting ID: 993 5459 6043, passcode: 674942
 - Dial *9 to raise your hand
 - After you are invited to speak, dial *6 to unmute yourself



Our CAG Meeting Space

- ▶ Put relationships first
- ▶ Keep focused on our common goal
- ▶ Notice power dynamics in the room
- ▶ Create a space for multiple truths & norms
- ▶ Be kind and brave
- ▶ Practice examining racially biased systems and processes
- ▶ Look for learning



Welcome CAG Members

Ed Washington & Lynn Valenter, CAG Co-Chairs

Meeting Agenda

Time	Topic
4:00 p.m.	Welcome & Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Meeting Overview○ Introductions and Check In○ Program Update
4:35 p.m.	Draft SEIS <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Overview○ Q&A / Discussion
5:05 p.m.	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Overview○ Engagement approach for outreach about the public comment period○ Update on mini-grants to community based organizations○ Q&A / Discussion
5:45 p.m.	Public Comment
5:55 p.m.	Closing

CAG Sharing

- ▶ **Welcome**
 - Ed Washington, Co-Chair
- ▶ **Open Discussion – CAG Members**
 - Please share your name, organizational affiliation or at-large status, and pronouns
- ▶ **Check-in: What's something that brought you joy this month?**

Program Update

Greg Johnson, Program Administrator

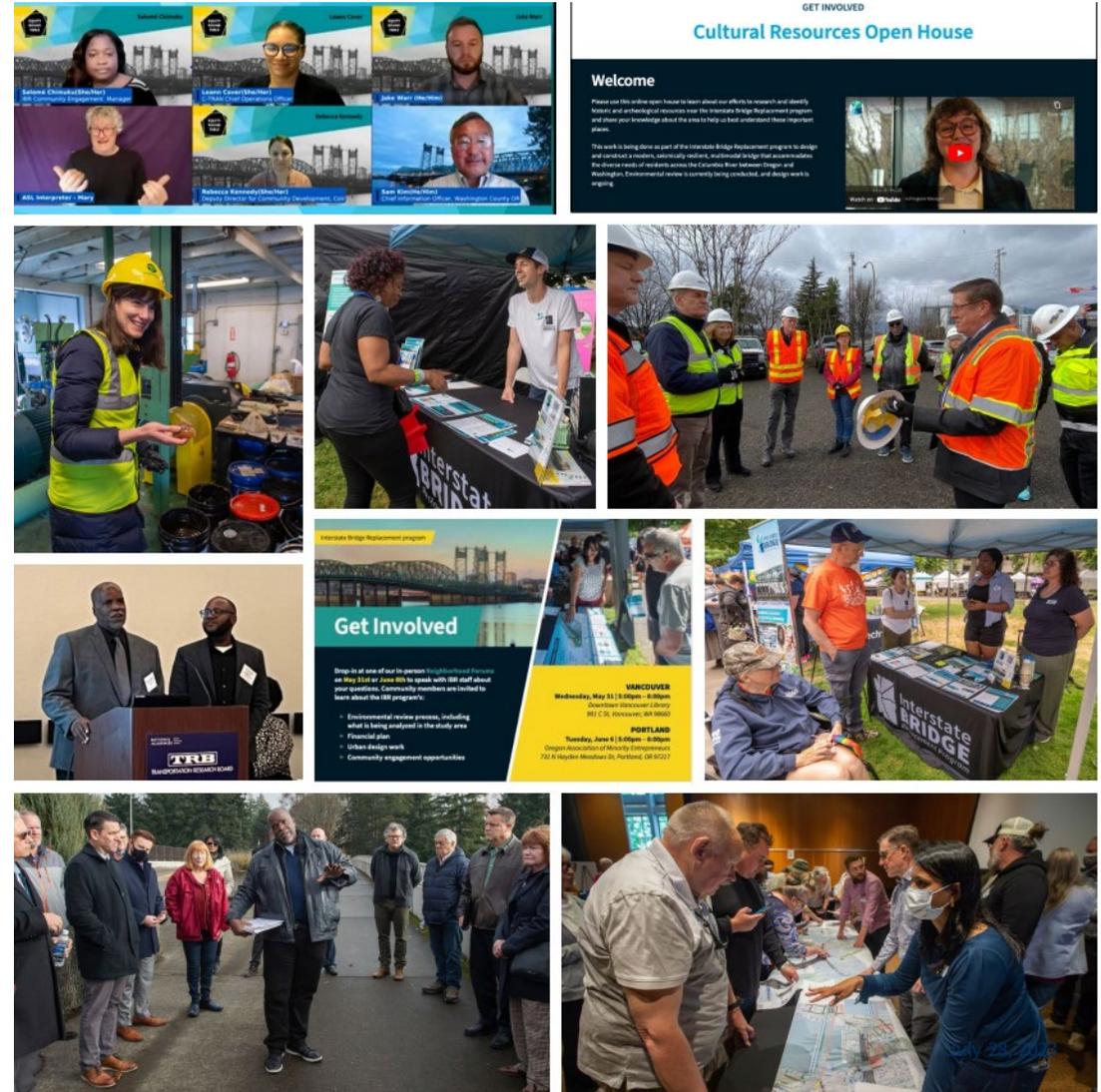
Recent Program Updates

▶ Program Tours

- Advisory Group Tour

▶ Recent Presentations:

- Vancouver Transportation and Mobility Commission
- Association of General Contractors
- Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO)
- Pacific NW Waterways Association
- Neighborhood Associations:
 - *HiNooN (Hayden Island Neighborhood Association)*
 - *East Columbia Neighborhood Association*
 - *Bridgeton Neighborhood Association*
- City of Portland Historic Landmarks and Design Committee



Recent Program Updates

▶ Contractor Meet and Greet – Nov. 8

- Opportunity for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises & Small Business Enterprises to learn about potential future contracting work, discover resources for technical support and network with other contractors
- For more details, email info@interstatebridge.org

▶ Bi-State Legislative Committee Meeting – Nov. 3

- Video recording and meeting materials available online
- www.interstatebridge.org/calendar





Draft SEIS

Angela Findley, Environmental Lead

SEIS Process

- ▶ **The IBR program is studying the Modified LPA and a No-Build Alternative to understand the effects of each alternative on the community and environment**
 - The Modified LPA is not the final design but identifies key elements to study in the SEIS process
 - Draft SEIS presents the specific design components of the Modified LPA and the potential impacts, benefits and mitigation
- ▶ **The results of the analysis will be published in the Draft SEIS**
 - All findings will be available for public review and comment
 - No decisions or changes to elements of the Modified LPA will be made until after there has been time for community feedback
 - Additional refinements and adjustments can be made to the Modified LPA in response to public comments and other design considerations to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts identified in the Draft SEIS
- ▶ **Next steps after the public comment period ends includes publishing a Final SEIS and Record of Decision**

Alternatives and Design Options

► Modified Locally Preferred Alternative

- Modified LPA will be compared to the No-Build Alternative
 - Full program alternative that includes the corridor-wide multimodal improvements
- Design Options
 - Options considered for specific locations or components
 - Options can represent “bookends” that will be evaluated in the Draft SEIS
 - After the public comments are reviewed, many options will be narrowed to a single solution, which may be a specific option evaluated or a solution that is between the “bookends”

► No-Build Alternative

- None of the improvements associated with Modified LPA would be implemented
- Other planned projects that are independent of the IBR program would proceed

► Each alternative is a future condition – conditions projected to occur in 2045 (this is called the design horizon)

Conceptual Design

General alignments and locations of transportation facilities

Design Options

- Bridge configurations
- Auxiliary lanes
- I-5 Alignment in Downtown Vancouver
- C Street Ramps
- Park and Rides at transit stations

Draft SEIS Contents

- ▶ **Summary**
- ▶ **Front Matter**
- ▶ **Ch 1. Purpose & Need**
- ▶ **Ch 2. Alternatives**
- ▶ **Ch 3. Existing Conditions and Environmental Consequences**
 - 3.01 Transportation
 - 3.02 Aviation & Navigation
 - 3.03 Acquisitions & Displacements
 - 3.04 Land Use & Economic Activity
 - 3.05 Neighborhoods & Equity
 - 3.06 Public Service & Utilities
 - 3.07 Parks & Recreation
 - 3.08 Cultural Resources
 - 3.09 Visual Quality
 - 3.10 Air Quality
 - 3.11 Noise & Vibration
 - 3.12 Energy
 - 3.13 Electric & Magnetic Fields
 - 3.14 Water Quality & Hydrology
 - 3.15 Wetlands and Waters
 - 3.16 Ecosystems
 - 3.17 Geology & Groundwater
 - 3.18 Hazardous Materials
 - 3.19 Climate
 - 3.20 Environmental Justice
 - 3.21 Section 6(f) & Federal Lands to Parks
 - 3.22 Cumulative Effects
- ▶ **Ch 4. Financial Analysis**
- ▶ **Ch 5. Section 4(f) Evaluation**
- ▶ **Appendices**
 - A. Agency & Tribal Coordination
 - B. Public Involvement
 - C. Concept Design Drawings
 - D. Design Option Development and Screening Report
 - E. References
 - F. List of Preparers
 - G. List of Draft SEIS Recipients
 - H. List of Technical Reports
 - I. Glossary
 - J. Index

Modified LPA Components



- Legend
- Light Rail (Expo Center to Evergreen)
 - Bus on Shoulder (N Victory Blvd to SR 500)
 - Active Transportation (Corridor-wide)

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Draft SEIS – What is Evaluated?

► Impacts and benefits

- Mix of quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Long-term direct effects
- Short-term construction effects
- Indirect effects (occur farther in distance or further in time)
- Cumulative effects (program effects in combination with past, present and future effects from other actions)

► Mitigation

- Proposed measures to address unavoidable adverse impacts where possible
 - *Regulatory and Best Management Practices*
 - *Project-specific mitigation*

The CAG's Role with the SEIS

- ▶ Help spread the word to your respective communities about the Draft SEIS becoming available for public review and the importance of providing public comment to shape decisions on the solution that advances to the Final SEIS and Record of Decision
 - 60-day comment period
 - In-person and online opportunities to receive information, ask questions, and submit comments
- ▶ Public comment provides valuable information for the program to work with local, state and federal agency partners to make key decisions about the program's design
- ▶ Provide your own public comment on the Draft SEIS

Draft SEIS Timeline

- ▶ **Expected release of the draft SEIS: early 2024**
 - 60-day public comment period
- ▶ **Community engagement efforts leading up to and/or during the public comment period will include a range of activities such as:**
 - Advisory group meetings
 - Neighborhood association meeting and forums
 - Public briefings and events held with CBOs and other partners
 - Public open houses/hearings
- ▶ **Refinements to draft SEIS addressing public feedback: mid- to late 2024**
 - A corridor-wide alternative for analysis in the final EIS will be confirmed
- ▶ **Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD): late 2024 to early 2025**

Upcoming Decisions for the Final SEIS

- ▶ **The Draft SEIS, public comments and coordination with agencies and tribes will inform the following program decisions:**
 - Bridge configurations
 - *Double-deck fixed-span*
 - *Single-level fixed-span*
 - *Single level with a moveable span over primary navigation channel*
 - One or two auxiliary lanes in each direction of I-5
 - With or without C Street on- and off-ramps to I-5 in downtown Vancouver
 - Centered or westward shift of I-5 between SR 14 and Evergreen Blvd.
 - Possible park and ride facilities at new Waterfront and/or Evergreen transit stations

Discussion

- ▶ **How can we help the community prepare for the Draft SEIS?**
 - Access to the Draft SEIS document
 - Understand the No-Build Alternative and Modified LPA
 - Find information in the Draft SEIS
 - Understand potential impacts, benefits and mitigation
 - Provide comments on Draft SEIS information
 - Other
- ▶ **What information is most important for the public to understand about the Draft SEIS document?**

Public Comment

Salomé Chimuku, Community Engagement Lead

Kimberly Webb, Communications Lead

Public Comment Overview

- ▶ **The public will have 60 days to submit comments following release of the Draft SEIS expected in early 2024.**
 - Information on the Modified LPA and design options is already available online at interstatebridge.org/nextsteps for you to review as you begin preparing to submit public comment.
- ▶ **Over the coming months, IBR will provide more information about what is being studied to aid in preparing for the public comment period.**
- ▶ **When you submit a public comment, the program will record the comment, and provide a response to the comment in the Final SEIS in late 2024 or early 2025.**

SEIS Public Comment: How to Participate

- ▶ **Draft SEIS: Early 2024**
 - Submitting a web-based form
 - Emailing a comment
 - Sending a comment through the mail
 - Calling the IBR office to leave a verbal comment
 - Commenting at public hearings
- ▶ **IBR will provide various ways to provide comments as the publication date approaches, and there will be information on the website.**
- ▶ **Comments do not have to be in English, and the program will accommodate accessibility, ADA, and other needs.**

How We Are Informing the Public

▶ Advertising

- Federal register, local newspaper of record, additional local and culturally specific media outlets including print and radio and social media.

▶ Multimedia engagement

- Video series on program area needs and investments, environmental process and ways to comment.

▶ Written engagement

- Postcards, display boards for in-person meetings, factsheets, etc.

▶ In person

- Advisory group meetings streamed on YouTube, neighborhood associations, public forums and briefings, etc.

▶ In the media

- Proactive outreach to media outlets

Engagement Leading Up to Draft SEIS

▶ The Content:

- What are the components of a Draft SEIS
- What to expect during the public comment period
- How the community can provide public comment and what happens after they submit their comment

▶ Intended Outcomes:

- Solicit feedback to help inform our future content and approach to engagement
- Understand information needs from the public about the Draft SEIS process so we can answer their questions ahead of and during the public comment period
- Conduct intentional outreach to equity priority communities to try and reach proportional level of public comment during the release

Engagement to Support the Draft SEIS Public Comment Period

▶ Formal requirements:

- Public Hearings
- Public Notifications

▶ Additional engagement opportunities:

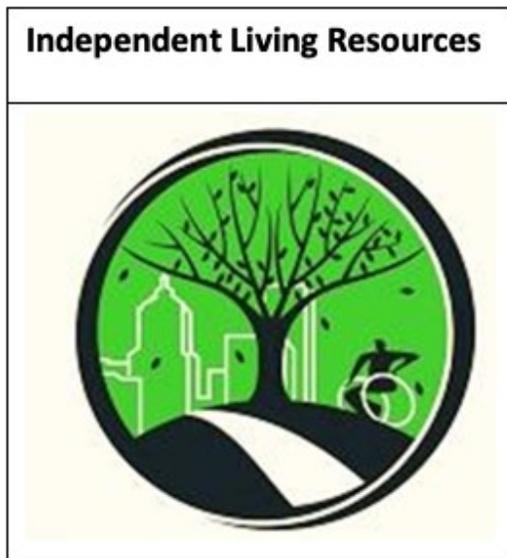
- Office Hours
- Briefings
- Presentations
- CBO mini-grants
 - *Community Forum*
 - *Affinity listening sessions*
- Literature drop
- Direct mail
- In-person outreach
- Tabling at local events and gatherings
- Infobox inquiries
- Equity roundtable

▶ Audiences include:

- Equity priority communities
- Residents in the program area
- Property and business owners
- Neighborhood associations
- Current and future travelers over the bridge who drive, use transit, or active transportation
- Community-Based Organizations

Participating Community-Based Organizations

- ▶ The IBR program is collaborating with the following CBOs on outreach to equity priority communities leading up to the release of the Draft SEIS



Discussion

- ▶ **How can we share the content of the Draft SEIS in a way that helps the community provide feedback?**
- ▶ **What additional community engagement would you encourage the program to conduct with the outcome of encouraging active public participation and feedback?**



Public Comment

Comment Instructions

To make a verbal comment:

- ▶ To make a live comment via phone, dial: +1 646 931 3860 or +1 408 638 0968
 - Meeting ID: 986 0940 5983
 - Passcode: 701376
- ▶ Dial *9 to raise your hand
- ▶ The facilitator will call on participants to provide comment
- ▶ Dial *6 to unmute yourself
- ▶ Please provide your name and affiliation
- ▶ 10-minute timeframe will be divided among the number of requested speakers

If we run out of time and you have not had a chance to speak, you can still provide comments after the meeting.



Comment Instructions

To submit comments after the meeting:



- ▶ Fill out the comment form on the program website or email your comments to info@interstatebridge.org with “CAG Public Comment” in the subject line.



- ▶ Call **360-859-0494** (Washington), **503-897-9218** (Oregon), **888-503-6735** (toll-free) and state "CAG Public Comment" in your message.
- ▶ Written comments need to explicitly say “**CAG Public Comment**” in the subject line or in the body of the message for them to be identified and distributed to CAG members.
- ▶ All written comments must be received prior to 48 hours in advance of each upcoming meeting in order to be distributed to advisory group members. Comments received after that point will be distributed to members in advance of their next meeting.



For more information contact:

info@interstatebridge.org

360-859-0494 or 503-897-9218

888-503-6735

<https://www.interstatebridge.org>

Follow us on social: @IBRprogram



Thank you!

www.interstatebridge.org